



Fathering

June 20, 2021 Message Notes
HOSEA 11

God loves us like a father and shows us what a father's love can be like. He compares his experience with Israel to what a father feels – both tender memories and some very tough struggles. Part of our growth challenge may be believing God loves us like that.

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NOTES

God compares his experience with Israel to what a father feels – both tender memories and some very tough struggles.

“When Israel was a child how I loved him...”

HOSEA 11:1a

“Out of Egypt I called my son...”

HOSEA 11:1b

Israel means ‘prevails with God, wrestles triumphantly with God.’

Ephraim means ‘fruitful.’

“It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms...”

HOSEA 11:3

“It was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love; I lifted the yoke from their neck and bent down to feed them.”

HOSEA 11:3b-4

Stages of Parenting:

- **Preschooler** – Nurturing
- **Child** – Teaching what
- **Middle school** – Training how
- **Older teen** – Coaching for success

Parenting: The first 40 years are always the hardest. (Bumper sticker)

Just because your child is older doesn’t mean they stop needing a father.

God loves you like a father and shows us what a father’s love can be like. Affectionate, attentive, affirming, empowering, healing, kind, strong, helpful. Part of our growth challenge may be believing God loves us like that.

Jesus taught us to know God as Father and to pray: Our father in heaven...

“I do not speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it and I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say.”



JOHN 12:49-50 NLT

“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself, he does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”

JOHN 5:19-20 NLT

Show your feelings, tell your children they are special, build them up – don’t tear them down, challenge them in ways that call them to step up into their giftedness, be there with patience when they fall, offer problem-solving help, give guidance to help guard them against harm.

Help them know God’s roar.

“They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars his children will come trembling like birds from Egypt, like doves from Assyria. I will settle them in their homes,” declares the Lord.

HOSEA 11:10-11

It’s so important our children know how to pay attention to God’s voice.

“Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, the house of Israel with deceit. And Judah is unruly against God...”

HOSEA 11:12

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but it ends in death.”

PROVERBS 14:12

God, as a good father, looks at the mess that disobedience is making of his children and is upset. He feels offended, disrespected, unappreciated – and yet He cares deeply for His wayward children.

“How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboiim?”

HOSEA 11:8

“My heart is changed within me, all my compassion is aroused. I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I turn and devastate Ephraim. For I am God and not man – the Holy One among you. I will not come in wrath.”

HOSEA 11:9

How will He come?

“They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come...”



HOSEA 11:10

We have to help our kids know God's roar. Recognize God's call.
How? Through His Word.

Our Heavenly Father delivers us from evil. Protects us from misguiding forces of evil – social media predators, controlling influences. **God's Word is a power tool.**

“All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

Do you want help to match your growing child's needs? Let God's Word guide you. God is Protector with wisdom to guard from harm.

“We urge you brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everybody.”
1 THESSALONIANS 5:14

Use the right tool for the job at hand. God's Word can show you how.

“Make sure nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.”
1 THESSALONIANS 5:15

How can you help your children know God's roar?

Seek it and follow it yourself. Let them see it and hear it in your voice.

The job's too big for one person. That's where the church comes in. We help each other, we learn the sacred stories, and meet our Savior.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark...”

“...and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That's how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.”
MATTHEW 24:37-39

Why did they know nothing? Either because somebody didn't tell them so they could be ready, or somebody told them and they chose not to listen.

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We can't make our children believe, but we can keep them within range of God's roar. How? Love them like the Father does and help them know God's roar through His Word.

In Jesus Christ, the Lion of Judah, they find, not God's wrath, but His strength.

The Father's love is big enough to handle human waywardness, human stubbornness, and human fallenness, and roar us right back home with Him.

